

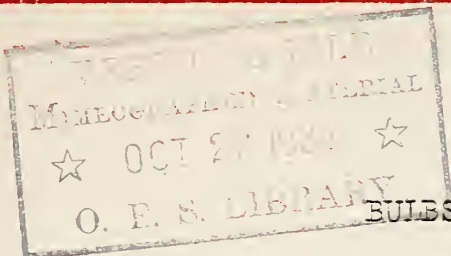
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BULBS FOR WINTER BLOOMS

The bulbs that are easiest to grow indoors are the narcissus, especially the paper-white, the common daffodil, hyacinth, tulip, and lily-of-the-valley. One can grow daffodils in the house in pots of soil. If wanted for spring blooms, plant them now but store them in a coldframe where they will remain cool. Most bulbs need a dark, cool place and from 6 to 12 weeks to develop good roots. The narcissus can be grown in a pot of sand or soil or bulb fiber. The paper-white narcissus bulbs will grow in a shallow bowl of pebbles with just enough water to feed the roots. They will need from 4 to 6 weeks in cool semidarkness.

One can have a succession of blooms all the way through the winter to Easter by starting new bulbs every 2 weeks, says _____ (Name) extension floriculturist, _____. (Institution) Unpack all bulbs just as soon as they arrive, he says, keep them in a cool place, - 50° to 55° F. - and pot them as soon as possible. Put drainage pebbles in the bottom of the pot, then a little soil, and then gently press the soil around the bulb. Many people make the mistake of pressing the bulb into the soil. Water moderately after potting. Keep the pot in a box of moist sand in a dark, cool cellar for several weeks. A bulb plant that is all leaves with scarcely any roots is the result of starting in too warm a place.

Once the roots are well established, bring the pot into a warmer and lighter place. But do it gradually. Plunging a growing bulb from the dark cold storage room into a warm sunny window will often prevent it from flowering. Keep hyacinth bulbs under the soil and moist until the first of December. Then bring them to light and start the leaves up, and they will bloom for the holidays.

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